Field Training

Fort Wainwright, Alaska
Environmental Officer Course
2011

Outline

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II. Areas of Concern

- A. Wastes
- B. Spill Prevention and Response
- C. Wildlife and Vegetation
- D. Terrain

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Purpose

- Environmental rules still apply in the field – whether conducting a local FTX, training at JRTC, or deployed.
- Why do we care?
  - Welfare of Soldiers and the environment.
  - Sustainability of training areas.
  - Part of our mission and ethics.
  - Criminal and civil penalties.
  - Public relations here and abroad.

Purpose

- Training areas are essential to the mission.
- Not following environmental laws and regulations can lead to training areas being taken away.
- Preserve training areas for current and future Soldiers.

Areas of Concern

- Wastes
  - Solid Waste
  - Human Waste
  - Wastewater
  - Medical Waste
  - Hazardous and Special Wastes
- Spill Prevention and Response
- Wildlife and Vegetation
- Terrain

Areas of Concern

- Solid Waste
  - Trash, garbage, rubbish.
  - Must bring all trash back from training site for proper disposal.
  - DO NOT BURN OR BURY!
  - Utilize Field Sanitation Teams for sanitary collection and transport of garbage.

Areas of Concern

- Human Waste
  - Units are responsible for contracting for chemical toilets.
  - Slit trenches and cat holes are allowed on TAs 14A, 14B, and 14C – summer only.
    - Cat holes allowed only in emergencies or for groups of 5 or less
  - No restrictions on urination.
  - No human waste will be buried, burned, or dumped in manholes.
  - Some training areas have permanent toilets.
  - Use Field Sanitation Teams for sanitary location and management of toilet facilities.

Areas of Concern

- Wastewater
  - Greywater dumping is allowed, but depends on area. Check with Range Control first.
  - Field showers, MKTs, handwashing stations, vehicle wash racks, etc.
  - ROWPU brine and backwash are NOT considered greywater.
    - ROWPU operations MUST be approved through Range Control – requires a State permit.
  - Use Field Sanitation Teams for sanitary management of wastewater.

Areas of Concern

- Medical Waste
  - Protect from sun, rain, snow, scavengers, pests.
  - May only need something as small as a sharps container.
  - Do not burn or bury! Pack it out for proper di

Areas of Concern

- Hazardous and Special Wastes
  - Motor pool wastes
  - Bilge water
  - Cylinders and fire extinguishers
  - Aerosol cans
  - Weapons cleaning waste
  - Field Sanitation Team items
  - CBRN wastes
  - Batteries
  - Range residue
  - MRE heaters

Areas of Concern

- Hazardous and Special Wastes
  - Motor pool wastes – if any vehicle maintenance is done:
    - Drained fluids (reuse, recycle, or HW disposal).
    - Waste solvents, grease, rags, dry sweep/absorbents.
    - Used filters.
    - Vehicle batteries.

Areas of Concern

- Hazardous and Special Wastes
  - Bilge water from Strykers:
    - MUST be captured and turned in as hazardous waste!

Areas of Concern

- Hazardous and Special Wastes
  - Cylinders, fire extinguishers, and aerosol cans
    - If any are used in the field they need to be brought back and disposed of properly.

Areas of Concern

- Hazardous and Special Wastes
  - Weapons cleaning waste
    - Patches, pipe cleaners, rags, etc.
  - Field Sanitation Team items
    - Calcium hypochlorite, pesticides, thermometers, etc.

Areas of Concern

- Hazardous and Special Wastes
  - CBRN wastes
    - Protective mask canisters, PPE, detectors, decon kits.
    - Contaminated items.

Areas of Concern

- Hazardous and Special Wastes
  - Range Residue
    - Return everything to the ASP!
    - Spent brass.
    - Smoke pots, fuse igniters, etc. – HW!
    - Ammo boxes and pallets.

Areas of Concern

- Hazardous and Special Wastes
  - Unused MRE Heaters
    - Must be separated out from regular garbage for HW turn-in.
    - Do not throw away!

Areas of Concern

Secondary Containment

- Spill Prevention and Response
  - Use drip pans and secondary containment!
  - If conducting any vehicle maintenance, use nonpermeable surface such as concrete pads. Improvise – use tarps.
  - Follow AR 200-1 to set up POL distribution points and refueling operations.
  - Have stocked spill kits adequate for the type of operation.

Areas of Concern

- Spill Prevention and Response
  - **ALL spills must be reported and cleaned up – even as small as one drop – as per Alaska State law.**
  - Immediately report spills to the fire department and Range Control.
  - Take action to control, contain, and clean up the spill immediately.
  - **Failure to immediately report spills may result in prosecution.**

Areas of Concern

- Spill Prevention and Response
  - Handle all hazardous wastes and materials as if in a garrison environment.
  - Coordinate all disposal actions with PWE.
  - Always turn in unused or waste oil or fog oil for recycling, as well as empty drums and other hazardous wastes such as old batteries, solvents, and paints.
  - *Preventing spills is the key!*

Areas of Concern

- Wildlife and Vegetation
  - Leave it alone!
    - You can be prosecuted for harassing wildlife.
  - Keep camp/bivouac sites clean to prevent attracting animals.
  - Federal laws prohibit killing migratory birds – or messing with their nests or eggs – and carry hefty penalties.
    - This includes gulls, ospreys, and eagles.

Areas of Concern

- Wildlife and Vegetation
  - Trees with a diameter less than 4” may be cut without coordination with PWE.
  - Destruction of trees and brush must be avoided unless it is required to achieve training objectives.
  - Use camouflage nets instead of live vegetation.

Areas of Concern

- Terrain
  - Digging is very limited.
  - Go through Range Control and PWE to obtain dig permits.
  - Foxholes, trench systems, tank traps, etc. must be refilled & leveled before redeployment from the field.
  - Use caution when snowplowing trails and bivouac sites.
  - A minimum of 6” of snow must remain on the ground.
  - All snow berms must be leveled after field exercise.
  - Do not push plow debris over any lakes or streams.

Areas of Concern

- Terrain
  - Vehicles must remain on marked trails and routes except when directed otherwise during tactical deployment.
  - During breakup (usually 1 April – 15 May), all vehicles are restricted to roads and dry trails.
  - Cross-country movement is allowed in summer except through creek bottoms, lakes, streams, and open, flowing water.
  - Stream crossing in summer must be done at a 90-degree angle to the stream.

Areas of Concern

- Terrain
  - Stream crossing in winter is permitted only across designated ice bridges and areas without flowing water.
  - Never cross fish spawning streams during the summer.
  - Avoid tactical turns unless absolutely necessary (missile avoidance, etc.).
    - Any damage caused by maneuvers must be reported to Range Control for repairs.
  - Do not drive directly up steep hills.

Areas of Concern

- Terrain
  - Movement into off-limits areas is strictly prohibited.
    - Violators are subject to disciplinary action.
  - Open fires are prohibited unless approved by Range Control or in an emergency.
  - Immediately report all unknown fires to Range Control – grid, fire nature, and size.
  - Use of pyrotechnics, smoke pots, and grenades may be restricted when fire danger is high.

Areas of Concern

- Terrain
  - Police training areas before, during, and after use.
    - Pick up any and all trash – even if it is not yours.
    - Bring back everything you take out there – trash, barbed or concertina wire, containers and packing material, etc. – EVERYTHING.
    - Do not burn or bury anything.
  - Do not dig in or otherwise damage wetlands.
    - Coordination MUST be made beforehand with Range Control for any training in wetlands.

Areas of Concern

- Terrain
  - Cultural resources
    - Historical and archaeological sites are to be left alone.
    - If you find anything that looks historic – yes even arrowheads – leave it alone and report it immediately to PWE.
  - Training lands are shared with the public for outdoor recreational uses – you may encounter these people during training.
  - If civilian presence interferes with training, contact Range Control.
  - Do not disturb any trap lines or trapped animals.

Range Control Requirements

- Range or Training Area OICs and RSOs must be safety certified.
  - Must receive safety briefing from Range Control as part of certification.
  - Will be given a range safety certification test – must pass with 80% or better.
  - Need a memo from battalion-level commander – certificate of qualification memorandum.

Summary

- Environmental laws and regulations apply in the field.
  - Protect Soldiers and the environment.
  - Preserve our training areas.
  - Part of our mission and ethics.
  - Avoid criminal and civil penalties.
  - Good public relations here and abroad.
- Always contact Range Control and PWE with any questions or concerns you have regarding field training and environmental requirements.

END

INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND

"Sustain, Support and Defend"